(b) if so, the extent to which it was attributable to lack of workers' safety measures in fire-works and match factories in Sivakasi where children and women are employed in hazardous and diplorable conditions;

(c) whether any central team was sent to Sivakasi to study the working conditions of children and women in such hazardous factories; and

(d) if so, when it was last done and what is the outcome of their study?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : (a) and (b) As per a status report sent by Government of Tamil Nadu on 24th September, 1992, a fire accident took place at Bharath Fire Works Industries, Naranapuram near Sivakasi at about 2.15 p.m. on 14-9-92. 15 persons had died due to the accident, till the date of the aforesaid report. According to availble information, out of 15 deceased persons, 8 were women. No children were involved in the accident. The State Government have informed that cause of accident is under investigation.

(c) and (d) Studies on Child Labour in match/fire works in Sivakasi were conducted by the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes in September, 1983 and February, 1984. A study on Safety and Working conditions in Fire and Match Works Factories was also conducted in February, 1985. These studies emphasised the need to develop safe work practices and improve the work environment for ensuring safety and health of workers in general and Child Labour in Particular.

Increase in the number of unemployed persons

2137. SHRI P. UPENDRA :

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research has estimated that about four million additional unemployed persons would be added each year during the period 1992-94 to the number of unemployed as a result of the on-going economic reforms; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to meet the situation and to safeguard the interest of the workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) The "Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy (1992-93)" prepared by the Notional Council of Applied Economic Research has referred to the estimates in a paper titled "The Employment Effects of Stabilisation and Related Policy Changes in India : 1991-92 to 1993-94" presented at the Workshop on "Social Dimensions of Structural Adjustments" organised by the International Labour Organisation in Delhi on December 10-11, 1991, wherein it has been observed that "under favourable conditions the stabilisation programme would result in about 4 million additional unemployed persons each year during the next couple of years." According to the Eighth Plan document the ongoing structural reforms may slow down employment during the initial one or two years of the plan.

Employment is the thrust area of the 8th Five Year Plan. The Plan, emphasises the need for a high rate of economic growth combined with faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors, and areas which have relatively high employment potential for enhancing the pace of employment generation. Geographically crop-wise diversified agricultural development, wasteland development and forestry, development of rural non-farm sector and rural infrastructure, faster growth of small and decentralised manufacturing and expansion of housing are the basic elements of the employment-oriented growth strategy envisaged in the Plan.

The Government has established the National Renewal Fund with the objectives of providing assistance for retraining and redeployment of workers as a result of modernisation, industrial restructuring and for providing funds for employment gene-

ration schemes both in the organised and unorganised sectors in order to provide a social safety net for labour needs arising from the consequences of industrial restructuring.

Victimisation of workers in Continental Profiles Ltd.

2138. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great victimisation of Stenos/workers in the Continental Profiles Ltd., 302, Mansarovar Building, 90 Nehru Place, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if an employee resigns from the organisation he is debarred from getting his salaries etc.;

(c) if so, how many employees have so far resigned from the organisation since September, 1992, till date and what are their dues pending with the organisation; and

(d) the reasons for not clearing their dues and by when their dues would be cleared?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dress for Children of Beedi Workers

2139. MAULANA OBAIDULAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 165 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th August, 1991 and state :

(a) whether the target for providing one set of dress to children of beedi workers has been achieved;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what target has been fixed during the current year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) In Uttar Pradesh during the year 1991-92 financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 42,000/- in respect of 840 children of beedi workers has been given as against the original target of 880 beneficiaries.

(c) As per the provisions of the Scheme for financial assistance to school going children of beedi workers for supply of one set of dress, not more than 3000 students per annum per region are paid the financial assistance subject to the availability of sanctioned budget. The State of Uttar Pradesh along with the State of Himachal Pradesh come under Allahabad Region of Labour Welfare Organisation. For the year 1992-93 the sanctioned budget under this head for Allahabad Region is Rs. 46,000/- for providing financial assistance to 920 beneficiaries.

T. B. Hospital at Gursahai Ganj

2140. MAULANA OBAIDULAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the T. B. hospital being set up at Gursahai Ganj under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund has been completed and started functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The hospital building has not yet been handed over by CPWD.